FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
APR 5 1968
TELETYPE

Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

501AM URGENT 4-5-68 DGP

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CIVIL RIGHTS.

RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS, APRIL FOUR LAST.

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS SURROUNDING ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

AT APPROXIMATELY SIX ZERO THREE PM, KING WAS ON SECOND FLOOR BALCONY OF LORRAINE MOTEL AND HOTEL, FOUR ZERO SIX MULBERRY, MEMPHIS, PREPARING TO GO TO DINNER. A SHOT WAS HEARD BY KING'S ASSOCIATES, WHO WERE AT STREET LEVEL. KING WAS OBSERVED TO FALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOT. KING WAS TAKEN TO ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY. DRS. J. N. BARRASSO AND FREDERICK GIOIA, ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL, INFORMED THAT KING WAS PRONOUNCED OFFICIALLY DEAD AT SEVEN ZERO FIVE PM, APRIL FOUR LAST. THEY STATE DEATH CAUSED BY BULLET TEARING MAJOR NECK VESSELS AND SEVERING SPINAL CORD AT THE ROOT OF THE NECK.

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ASSOCIATES OF DR. KING STATE BEFORE SHOOTING, POLICE OFFICERS WERE IN AREA PATROLING AND THAT SHORTLY AFTER ONE CAR OF OFFICERS HAD PASSED, DR. KING WAS SHOT. MOMENTARILY AFTER

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INDIVIDUAL PAID ONE WEEK'S RENT WITH A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL AND TWO QUARTERS AND RECEIVED TWELVE DOLLARS IN CHANGE.

ONE RESIDENT OF ROOMING HOUSE OBSERVED UNKNOWN WHITE MALE GOING IN AND OUT OF BATHROOM FREQUENTLY AND ON ONE OCCASION REMAINED IN BATHROOM TWENTY TO THIRTY MINUTES.

REAR OF THIS ROOMING HOUSE FACES LORRAINE MOTEL AND BATHROOM WINDOW FURNISHES UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF LORRAINE MOTEL AND PLACE AT WHICH DR. KING WAS SHOT. ESTIMATED DISTANCE FROM BATHROOM WINDOW TO POINT WHERE DR. KING WAS SHOT IS TWO HUNDRED FIVE FT.

ON ARRIVAL INVESTIGATING OFFICERS, BATHROOM WINDOW OBSERVED TO BE OPEN APPROXIMATELY THREE INCHES. WINDOW IN ROOM FIVE B WIDE OPEN. WINDOW OF ROOM FIVE B ALSO AFFORDS VIEW OF LORRAINE MOTEL, HOWEVER, IT WOULD REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL TO LEAN OUT OF WINDOW TO FIRE SHOT.

MANUEL MARCUS LEVIN, WHITE MALE, BORN [redacted] STUDENT, [redacted] ISS., AND ALEX J. HURDER, BORN [redacted] STUDENT, [redacted] DETAINED BY MEMPHIS PD AT APPROXIMATELY SIX FIFTY PM, APRIL FOUR LAST. MEMPHIS PD HAD RECEIVED REPORT THAT TWO WHITE